

Applicati n No.: 09/997947

Case No.: 56847US002

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of hydroforming a tube section comprised of a male tube section having an end portion received within and overlapping an end portion of a female tube section, comprising:

curing an adhesive disposed within an annular space defined between ~~said~~ the male and female tube sections to form a resulting tube section; and

hydroforming the resulting tube section into a desired shape.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising providing an inlet hole in ~~said~~ the female tube section to introduce adhesive to ~~said~~ the annular space.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, further comprising providing an exit hole in ~~said~~ the female tube section.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the adhesive comprises a two-part epoxy adhesive.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein each of ~~said~~ the male and female tube sections comprises one of galvanized steel and aluminum.

6. (original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising injecting adhesive into the annular region prior to the step of curing the adhesive.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein ~~said~~ the exit hole is aligned about 180 degrees from ~~said~~ the inlet hole.

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8. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising cleaning the overlapping area of the male and female tube sections prior to assembling the tube sections.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of annular spaces between ~~said~~ the male and female tube sections, each annular space comprising an inlet hole.

10. (original) The method according to claim 9, wherein each annular space comprises an exit hole.

11. (original) The method according to claim 9, comprising injecting adhesive through each inlet hole into its corresponding annular space.

12. (currently amended) A method of hydroforming a tube section comprised of a male tube section having an end portion received within and overlapping an end portion of a female tube section, at least one of ~~said~~ the end portions comprised of an annular groove forming an annular space between ~~said~~ the male and female tube sections, and an inlet formed in one of ~~said~~ the end portions in communication with ~~said~~ the annular space for injection of an adhesive into ~~said~~ the space, said method comprising:

injecting an adhesive through ~~said~~ the inlet into ~~said~~ the annular space;

curing the adhesive to bond ~~said~~ the male and female tube sections together; and

hydroforming the tube section into a desired shape.

13. (currently amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising providing an exit hole in the same tube section as ~~said~~ the inlet hole, about 180 degrees from ~~said~~ the inlet hole.

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14. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein injecting an adhesive comprises injecting adhesive into ~~said the~~ inlet hole until the adhesive begins to exit ~~said the~~ annular space through ~~said the~~ exit hole.

15. (currently amended) A method of forming a composite frame structure, comprising:

arranging a plurality of metal frame components into a birdcage structure so as to define a plurality of joints defined by overlapping portions of adjacent components, each of ~~said the~~ joints comprising a circumferential space formed between the overlapping portions of the adjacent components;

injecting an adhesive into each of the ~~annular spaces~~ joints;

curing the adhesive; and

hydroforming the ~~resulting~~ birdcage structure into a desired shape.

16. (currently amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein each joint includes an annular space ~~comprises~~ comprising an adhesive inlet hole and an adhesive exit hole, and ~~said step of injecting an adhesive into each of the annular spaces~~ comprises injecting adhesive through each ~~said~~ inlet hole into its corresponding annular space.

Claims 17 - 28 (canceled)

29. (currently new) The method according to claim 15, wherein said hydroforming occurs after said curing.